



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Ice Harbor Dam spill tests schedule changes

BURBANK, Wash. – The schedule for spillway testing at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam has changed, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

The tests, originally slated for Feb. 28 through March 25, are underway and set for completion at 6 p.m. March 21, according to a revised schedule issued by the Walla Walla District navigation officials.

Boaters should keep safety in mind as they can still anticipate level fluctuations on the Columbia River upstream of McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore., between 336-338 feet mean sea level and between 336.5-338.5 feet MSL immediately on the downstream side (the tailrace area) of Ice Harbor Dam near Burbank, Wash. On two days – March 18 and 21 – spillway testing is likely to create tailwater levels at or near 346 feet MSL. The higher levels at the testing site (tailwater area of Ice Harbor Dam) are fairly isolated to the immediate vicinity of the dam, according to Corps hydrologists. Boaters could experience noticeable river level fluctuations. For example, a boater pulling their vessel ashore during high flows could find their boat resting well out of the water the next day.

The purpose of the testing is to evaluate fish passage under various spill conditions to determine how to best conduct spill operations at Corps dams that will optimize conditions for fish traveling over the spillway. The tests are being conducted using hatchery-raised juvenile chinook salmon, said Mark Smith, a District fishery biologist. Other testing involves releases of complex sensor devices that will detect and record precise data like speed, turbulence, pressure and spatial position while traveling through the spillway.

The testing schedule was modified when researchers notified Corps officials they could complete their tests ahead of the original schedule, thus shortening the testing period. The Corps coordinated with Bonneville Power Administration to adjust the schedule while still balancing the region's power production needs.

Public notices and other navigation lock information are available on the Walla Walla District Web site at: www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/t/navdata/default.html . For more information about the District's anadromous fish research, check out www.nww.usace.army.mil/planning/ep/fishres/newmain.html .

-30-

Updated Schedule for Spillway Deflector Tests at Ice Harbor as of 03/17/06

Date	Total Discharge (Spillway and Powerhouse)	Day	Test Period	Ice Harbor Tailwater	McNary Forebay
17MAR	24.5 KCFS	F	0700-1800	336.5 – 337.5	336.0 to 336.5
18MAR	105 KCFS	Sat	0700-1800	346.0	337.0 to 338.0
19MAR	No Testing	Sun		Pool Fluctuation in Preparation for Next Test	Pool Fluctuation in Preparation for Next Test
20MAR	24.5 KCFS	M	0700-1800	336.5 – 337.5	336.0 to 336.5
21MAR	105 KCFS	T	0700-1800	346.0	337.0 to 338.0

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil